

# METHOD AND APPARATUS IN NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR PERFORMANCE-BASED NETWORK PROTOCOL LAYER FIREWALL

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and apparatus for implementing a performance-based firewall at the protocol layer. Application Action Objects (AAOs) are created for requesting applications and are mapped to specific protocol events. Each AAO is then used as a Usage Based Firewall (UBF) to monitor all usage of the protocol at the endpoint identified by the application, thereby acting as a performance-based, protocol layer firewall for communications at that endpoint. A responsible logical gateway monitors the AAO and reports AAO activity to a UBF Manager at a control server to direct the AAO regarding continued usage based on bandwidth considerations